

# Hawaii MARINE

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## Naval Services mourn 57th SecNav

Compiled by  
**Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards**  
*Press Chief*

American flags on ships, stations, bases and commands went to half-mast Oct. 19 to honor the passing of the 57th Secretary of the Navy, 97-year-old Paul H. Nitze. A memorial service was held Saturday at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

During his time as secretary of the Navy, Nitze raised the level of attention given to quality of service issues. His many achievements included establishing the first personnel policy board and retention task force, and obtaining targeted personnel bonuses. He lengthened commanding officer tours, raised command responsibility pay, became a strong advocate for officers' advanced education opportunities and worked to ease unnecessary burdens on Sailors by relaxing import duty section requirements and hiring civilian custodial workers.

Born Jan. 16, 1907 in Amherst, Mass., Nitze graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1928. After working in investment banking where he was known as a Wall Street prodigy, he left in 1941 to enter government service. In 1942, he was chief of the Metals and Minerals branch of the Board of Economic Warfare, until named director, Foreign Procurement and Development Branch of the Foreign Economic Administration in 1943. During the period 1944-1946, Nitze served as director and then as vice chairman of the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey for which President Harry S. Truman awarded him the Medal of Merit.

For the next several years he served with the Department of State, beginning in the position of deputy director of the Office of International Trade Policy. In 1949, he was named assistant secretary of state for economic affairs and in August became deputy director of the State Department's policy planning staff. He was appointed director the following year. As director, Nitze was the principal author of a highly influential secret National Security Council document, which provided the strategic outline for increased U.S. expenditures to counter the perceived threat of Soviet armament.

From 1953-1961, Nitze served as president of the Foreign Service Educational Foundation while concurrently serving as associate of the Washington Center of Foreign Policy Research, the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University. His publications during this period include "U.S. Foreign Policy: 1945-1955." In 1961, Nitze was appointed assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs by President John F. Kennedy, and in 1963 he became the secretary of the Navy and served in that capacity until 1967.

After his term as secretary of the Navy, Nitze continued to serve in instrumental government roles. For more than 40 years, he was one of the chief architects of U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his contributions to the freedom and security of the U.S.

In January 2001, the Navy decided to name the 44th Burke-Guided Missile Destroyer "USS Nitze." The DDG-49 was christened April 17 in Maine, and is slated for commissioning March 2005.



NITZE



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Marines from Motor Transport Platoon and Supply Platoon, with 3rd Radio Battalion, work together to pull out a long-ago buried HMMWE tire hidden in the trees of the Tactical Landing Zone training area here, during the MCB Hawaii Pride Day Friday. Hundreds of volunteers from units all over the base worked together to beautify the base and clean up all adrift trash and debris.

## 'Pride Day' cleans up

MCB Hawaii units join together to beautify base

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills  
*Sports Editor*

As part of MCB Hawaii "Pride Day," Marines and Sailors from numerous commands here volunteered their time last week to complete a massive clean up covering the entire base.

Hundreds of volunteers joined the effort from Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Combat Service Support Group 3, 3rd Radio Battalion, Patrol Reconnaissance Wing Two, Marine Aircraft Group 24 and many more.

"This was a good time to have a concentrated effort to pick up and clean up all the trash and



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Sgt. Lorincio Bacus, a base telephone technician with G-6, helps clean up Pyramid Rock Beach, during the MCB Hawaii Pride Day, Friday.

items that are adrift here on base, that people ignore daily," said Master Sgt. Sheldon Comer, the deputy base inspector of MCB Hawaii.

"Some people are deficient in the common understanding that everyone is responsible for cleaning up the base. If anyone sees something on the ground that doesn't belong there, then they should pick it up."

Marines and Sailors spent Thursday and Friday morning cleaning both the inhabited and training areas of the base, including Pyramid Rock Beach, North Beach, Marine Corps Air Facility, Mokapu Road, Nuupia Ponds and all the surrounding areas.

"Marines and Sailors have still not forgotten the tradition and history of the Marine Corps," said Gunnery Sgt. Douglas Peercy, company gunnery sergeant of Headquarters and Service Company. "From keeping our areas squared away to taking responsibility for our community,

See PRIDE, A-6

## Anderson Hall competes for top honors

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson  
*Media Chief*

Established by the Secretary of the Navy and the International Food Service Executives Association in 1985, the Maj. Gen. William P.T. Hill Memorial Award is designed to improve food service operations and recognize the best general messes in the Marine Corps.

This year Anderson Hall is stepping up to the challenge, as it was inspected Friday by a team from the

International Food Service Executive Association.

"There were a total of three people who came to inspect the chow hall on everything from sanitation and service, to food preparation and quality," said Maj. Richard Bedford, head of food service section, Headquarters Marine Corps.

"This is our fourth stop for the inspections so far," said Bedford. "From what I see here so far, the cooks all seem really motivated at K-Bay. They also have a great partner-

ship with the civilians here, which is very important."

The inspectors will not only inspect, but they will also talk to the patrons of the mess hall.

"Not only will the cooks themselves be inspected, but also service members who eat there will be asked questions about the service and quality of the dining area," said Bedford.

The Anderson Hall dining facility falls under the Joint Category for the competition, in which civilians and military workers are integrated. The

other two available categories are Full Food Service (all civilians), and Field Category, which are messes inspected in the field.

Although this is a tough competition, the Marines aren't too stressed about the inspections, according to Master Sgt. Michael Sekeres, Anderson Hall mess hall manager.

"The Marines really didn't have a lot to do to prepare for this inspection," said Sekeres. "We emphasize

See FOOD, A-6

## Volunteers help beautify school

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards  
*Press Chief*

More than 70 volunteers, staff, faculty and family members came together Saturday to take part in the "Make a Difference Day" project at Mokapu Elementary here.

According to the Web site, the one-day event is the most encompassing national day of helping others — a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors.

"We had a penny drive prior to Make A Difference Day that started on September 27 and ran through October 15," said Vicki Lyons, the parent community-networking center coordinator for Mokapu Elementary. "The students raised more than two thousand dollars, which went toward the purchase of material for Make A Difference Day and the beautification of the school."

The volunteers, including students from the school, accom-

See DIFFERENCE, A-6



### In Memory

Lance Cpl. Richard P. Slocum, 19, of Saugus, Calif., died Oct. 24 due to a noncombat related vehicle accident near Abu Ghraib, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii.

Slocum enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 2003 and attended the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, Calif. in December 2003, where he trained to become a machinegunner. He traveled to the Middle East in support of OIF.

Slocum is survived by his parents, one brother and one sister.

His awards include the National Defense Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.



NEWS BRIEFS

Daylight Saving Time

Hawaii Standard Time Zone residents will not observe Daylight Saving Time. However, other time zones on the mainland will fall back one hour, beginning Sunday at 2 a.m.

PME with Gen. Anthony Zinni

In conjunction with the 2004 Marine Corps Birthday Ball, retired Gen. Anthony Zinni, will provide a Professional Military Education session for senior officers (field grade and CWO-3 and above), senior staff noncommissioned officers (E-8 and above) and senior government service employees (GS-13 and above).

The 90-minute session will be held at The Officers’ Club here Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. An Officer Call will be held following the PME. Spouses are invited to the Officer Call.

Mokapu Elementary School Fall Book Fair

Mokapu Elementary School will hold a Fall Scholastic Book Fair, Wednesday through Nov. 10 in the school cafeteria. The Book Fair is open to the public with a nice selection of books for all ages. It’s a great time to get some wonderful books for holiday gift giving. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the week and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 6. Yearbook committee volunteers will be on hand Nov. 6 with hot dogs and cold beverages available for a nominal donation.

Random Environmental Radon Testing

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Environmental Department will be testing random base housing units for radon, in November. Residents whose homes are to be tested should have received a notification letter from base environmental.

For more information on radon or the testing, contact Perry Ayers at 257-6920 or Randall Hu at 257-6920 ext. 231.

Blue Angels Scrip Refunds

Unused scrip purchased at the Blues on the Bay Air Show may be refunded at Marine Corps Exchange Cash Cage until Nov. 18. Call Jim Bocci at 254-7679 for details.

Picnic Area Closure

The Riseley Field picnic area is closed through January for landscaping and irrigation upgrades. Units and others coordinating Family Day get-togethers and other such events need to plan accordingly. During this period, all parties are encouraged not to walk across or otherwise transit the area, in order to protect new grass growth.

New Residential Lockout Procedures

Effective Monday, base residents will be responsible for gaining access to their homes in case of lockouts. In the past, the Command Duty Officer for MCB Hawaii assisted residents who were locked out. The MCBH CDO will no longer provide this service.

State Alert to Sound Monday

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be held Monday at 11:45 a.m. The siren test is a steady 45-second tone, used to alert the public of emergencies that pose or may pose a threat to life and property.

PWMA Accepts Brick Orders

Due to continued interest in the “Walkway of Honor” bricks located at the Pacific War Memorial adjacent the entrance to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the Pacific War Memorial Association is accepting orders online at [www.PacificWarMemorial.org](http://www.PacificWarMemorial.org), or call 533-3759. Orders will be accepted until Dec. 15.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852

Hawaii MARINE

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New check clearing policy in effect now

Compiled by Public Affairs Office  
MCB Hawaii

Electronic checks and Check 21

On Oct. 28, 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act of 2003, also known as “Check 21.” This law is intended to make check clearing easier for banks and financial institutions. However, the law impacts the personal finances of individual Marines and their families.

Under the old law, each check you signed was physically transported between financial institutions as it wound its way through the check clearing process. Under Check 21, banks process more checks electronically.

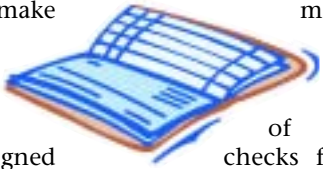
Frequently asked questions

1. When does Check 21 apply? Check 21

went into effect Thursday.

2. Is electronic check processing secure? Electronic check processing is not new to the financial industry and is a safe and reliable way of processing payments. It uses technology that has been developed and tested to process your check information securely.

3. What changes will I notice under the Check 21 law? Instead of receiving cancelled checks from your bank, you may receive some or all of your cancelled checks in the form of “substitute checks,” instead of the original cancelled checks. Banks that receive checks are allowed to convert checks into electronic images of the check’s front and back sides; these images are called substitute checks,



and are as legally valid as the original check itself, though the images may not reflect the actual colors or size of the original check. Electronic processing of the check then can proceed, using the substitute check, which saves banks time and money. Substitute checks must contain the following note: “This is a legal copy of your check. You can use it the same way you would use the check.”

4. Will my checks be paid sooner, and will deposits reach my account sooner? Checks will be paid more quickly under Check 21. The “float” time of your checks will decrease, so the number of days between your writing a check and the check clearing will be shorter. It is now more critical that you ensure you have adequate funds in your account when

See CHECKS, A-4

BRAC ‘05 to support DoD

Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure initiative will be different from previous rounds in that it will directly contribute to DoD’s transformation efforts, a top DoD official said here Monday.

BRACs conducted between 1988 and 1995 closed 97 military bases and realigned 57, Raymond DuBois, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, told attendees at the Association of the U.S. Army’s annual meeting here. Officials today estimate the department still carries about 23 percent excess infrastructure.

The 2005 BRAC will be unique in that besides paring no-longer-needed facilities, it will also support transformation goals, thereby making DoD better prepared for

combating 21st century threats like global terrorism, DuBois observed.

A key component of 2005 BRAC consideration, he explained, involves weighing an installation’s military value in view of how it contributes to and accommodates joint operations. Joint warfighting has proven to be the “coin of the realm” when confronting terrorists in Afghanistan and Iraq, he said.

In the post-Cold War world, “the U.S. Army must own speed and surprise,” DuBois said, noting that multiservice cooperation in the transportation field in recent years has greatly leveraged the Army’s combat projection power.

DuBois said the 2005 BRAC is aimed at combining that kind of power, including joint training, at installations that best offer it. Also, he noted, duplication can be reduced by merging military research and laboratory facilities.

COMMENTARY

Marines still keep me smiling

Master Gunnery Sgt. Billy D. Stewart

Commentary

In keeping with the Marine Corps Ball season, morale needs to remain as high as possible. It does us all good to recall the great things about our Corps. In a few weeks the standard e-mail will start making its

rounds throughout the Corps. You know the e-mail, the one that discusses the great reasons about being a Marine. While all of these are definitely true, on a lighter note, I would like to list my own reasons why I think Marines are unique and often amusing.

These are not the serious reasons we read

about every year, but the humorous ones we all have witnessed one time or another. Marines still challenge me every day, keep me smiling, and sometimes leave me shaking my head in disbelief. I hope these 50 descriptions will do the same for you this week. Keep your chin up and smile. Semper Fi.

Word on the street

“What is the worst trick you ever played on Halloween?”



**Lance Cpl. Kenneth Fischer**  
Working Dog Handler  
Headquarters Battalion,  
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

“I convinced my friend that she rolled over me with her car while I was working under it.”



**Sgt. Robert Borjas**  
MISCO  
Combat Service Support Group 3

“When I was 14 or 15, me and my friends would egg kids who would walk by.”



**Petty Officer 1st Class Israel Pedregon**  
Aviation Machinist’s Mate  
Patrol Squadron 47

“I didn’t play any tricks on Halloween.”



**Pvt. Joseph P. Miozza**  
Enlisted Aircrew  
Marine Heavy Helicopter  
Squadron 362

“My family didn’t feel like handing out candy one year, so I dressed as a scarecrow and scared kids off the lawn.”



**Cynthia Harris**  
Accountant  
Taxbusters

“We hid a friend’s car and painted it black so when she walked by it she still had no idea it was hers.”

1. Only Marines will honestly tell you that one of their reasons for volunteering for deployment is the fact they need to get some more ribbons.
2. The most famous statement uttered by a Marine after he/she doesn’t fire expert on the range is, “I had slow butt service.” This Marine is usually heard telling their buddies, “I fired expert all week ... really.”
3. Only after a health and comfort inspection in the Air Wing will you find enough “chem lights” to illuminate a small city.
4. Marines spend more time cleaning their vehicles than their barracks room.
5. No matter what age, Marines still are nervous when they see their drill instructors in the FME.
6. New Marines often salute parked cars with blue decals without anyone being in them.
7. No matter what rank, Marines still forget female officers should be called “Ma’am,” not Sir.
8. If Marines need a haircut and have only \$5 to their name, they will sometimes choose to buy a twelve pack of beer and hope for a barracks barber to hook them up with a trim.
9. Many Marines believe white socks look good with sandals.
10. Marines don’t buy magazines; they just go into the PX and read them for hours on end for free.
11. Marines love to leave the stickler with the combination on the back of their locks.
12. Male children of Marines usually wear a regulation haircut.
13. The Marine that failed to take the Basic Finance MCI often states, “As long as I have checks, I must have money.”
14. When Marines get intoxicated, they often say, “I love you” to whoever will listen.
15. Many Marines think that wearing black socks to PT is cool.
16. After the rank of gunnery sergeant, younger Marines will view you as being old and will disassociate themselves from you, even on Thanksgiving.
17. Young male Marines are known for wearing their shirts too small to promote their so-called

- muscle mass.
18. It is a fact all officers are issued khaki trousers/shorts at OCS.
  19. Enlisted male Marines usually wear the after-shave lotion they were issued in boot camp. Ooh Rah, “Bulldog” and “Wind Drift.”
  20. All Marines love karaoke, however they are usually lacking the proper skills to successfully negotiate a single note.
  21. Marines can often puke and run simultaneously.
  22. I recently read that a boot Marine escorted a young lady to a formal dance while on leave. Before the dance, the Marine asked his date where she would like to dine. The young lady said seafood would be nice. In true Marine fashion, he used all resources available, and took her to Long John Silvers Seafood Shop. Good initiative, bad judgment.
  23. A good source told me of a young 2nd lieutenant at the Basic School who took his sword out in town to have it sharpened.
  24. Young Marines often think that their all-weather coat is a great fashion statement and should be worn with their black leather patent shoes on leave and liberty.
  25. For some reason, PFCs and lance corporals love tattoos that cost more than \$200.
  26. I have found that young Marines speak really nice to Sailors only when hurt, hungry or looking for a light duty chit. I have also verified that older Marines appreciate the Navy because they know what is good for them. Go Navy!
  27. Some Marines believe that beer, dip, cigarettes and coffee represent four of the major food groups.
  28. Marines know enough self-defense coming out of Recruit Training to get their butt kicked while trying to show off on leave.
  29. The anthem of every late Marine is “The power went off in the barracks, and my alarm didn’t go off. Really!”
  30. Marines will illegally park instead of walking 25 yards from

See LIST, A-6





Petty Officer 1st Class Rodney Love, an air traffic controller and Blue Crew leader, with Marine Corps Air Facility keeps a watchful eye on the flightline as incoming aircraft make their final approach.

# All over the radar

## ATC keeps watchful eyes on skies

**Story and Photos by  
Sgt. Jerome L. Edwards**  
*Press Chief*

Marine Corps Air Facility air traffic controllers keep watchful eyes on the skies here. Many residents have gotten used to seeing the various types of aircraft come and go, but may not know exactly how aircraft fly across the country, ensure they are heading the right direction and land safely.

“The mission of air traffic controllers here, as well as anywhere is firstly to keep aircraft separated, and secondly, to conduct ATC in the safest and most efficient way possible to get aircraft to and from their destination in the safest manner,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Rodney Love, air traffic controller, facility watch supervisor and blue crew leader here.

“ATC is comprised of two branches; radar and tower,” said Love. “I can’t say that one is more important than the other, because you can’t have one without the other. They are both equally important.”

### RADAR

“Radar consists of four positions that are normally manned – the radar supervisor, who does exactly as the job implies,” said Love. “He manages the other three controllers as well as the radar room, and ensures that air traffic is being conducted in the proper manner. When it comes to radar, they never see the aircraft, they guide the aircraft using radar, based on its position and what it intends to do. It is sort of like playing a video game, only it is not a

game. That is someone’s life on the line.”

The approach controller has a big part in monitoring K-Bay’s air space.

“The primary working position is the approach controller, which controls air space from surface to 9,000 feet and up to 35 miles outside of the airport,” said Love. “The approach controller takes hand offs from Honolulu Center and Fax Fax Hula Dancer and brings aircraft into or leads them out of the air space. The radar flight data controller position is mainly an administration position in that the flight data controller handles the approach from the controller and marks them appropriately so the approach controller can pick up the stick and know exactly what type of aircraft is inbound, at what altitude it is flying and what code the pilot is communicating.”

The air traffic controllers have a great array of gadgets at their fingertips to assist them in doing their jobs.

“First off, we have the controllers themselves,” said Love. “If an aircraft is coming into the airport and the weather is bad, the approach controller will hand them off to another controller. The final controller will control the aircraft via precision approach radar, or ... surveillance approach, either of which is designed to get them directly to the airport.

“The flight data controller also hands off aircraft to neighboring control centers to help keep some of the workload off of the approach controller, so the approach controller can focus on air traffic in our allotted air space.”



Air traffic controllers manning the radar room stay in contact with all approaching aircraft as well as other control towers in order to keep track of traffic in the sky.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonnie Freeman, an air traffic controller with Marine Corps Air Facility, looks down the runway to ensure no pedestrian traffic is crossing the flightline as the aircraft taxis in.

### TOWER

“The other branch is the most visible,” Love said. “The tower is also manned by four controllers, and the positions all mirror that of the radar branch, the only difference between the tower and radar is their method of controlling the traffic in the area.”

The tower is controlled by a more visual method of observation.

“The tower supervisor oversees the other three controllers. The local controller controls all aircraft in a 4.3 nautical mile radius of the airport, which is not restricted to the 4.3 miles as most aircraft are handed off from radar or check in at about 10 miles out. However, all aircraft within that 4.3-mile buffer are strictly under the tower’s control,” said Love. “The local controller controls all the aircraft in the air within that 4.3 mile buffer, but there is one different position — the ground controller. He controls all aircraft, vehicles and personnel that is on the airfield and they must maintain two-way communication with him in order to prevent any group or individual from being struck by an aircraft.”

Even in Hawaii where the weather is most always clear, the weather can still play a factor in how aircraft is handled.

“Anyone can control aircraft on a clear and sunny day, which you have a lot of here in Hawaii, but when it comes down to it and you have something along the lines of an 800-foot overcast ceiling and it’s raining all over the place and visibility is just at a mile, the only thing the pilot has to rely on are the headings and altitudes the tower gives him,” said Love.

“We are the guide for the pilots when they can’t visually see their way,” added Love.



Above — Petty Officer 2nd Class Rux Hall, an air traffic control person with Marine Corps Air Facility, keeps a watchful eye on the sky as approaching aircraft come in.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica Banks, an air traffic control person with Marine Corps Air Facility, uses radio technology to talk to incoming aircraft.



Left — Petty Officer 1st Class Rodney Love (right), an air traffic controller and Blue Crew leader with Marine Corps Air Facility, uses sophisticated radar technology to track all aircraft in the sky within our area of responsibility.

# Ruiz says aloha and mahalo after 22 years

**Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards**  
*Press Chief*

Marines, Sailors, family members and friends gathered at the Pacific War Memorial Friday to witness the culmination of 22-years of honorable and faithful service during a retirement ceremony for a staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the repairable issue point, with Combat Service Support Group 3.

“Master Sgt. Joe Ruiz. To tell his story, we could write books,” said Capt. Ashley Burch, commanding officer of Supply Company CSSG-3. “I’ve only known him two-and-a-half years and I could speak volumes.”

Ruiz was born in Havana, Cuba on May 21, 1964. After his first year of college at the Inter-American University, he attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. He attended Marine Corps Service Support School at Camp Lejune, North Carolina and received orders to Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, where he met his wife of 20 years, the former Etsuko Matayoshi.

“My wife and children have played a vital role in my success as a Marine. If it wasn’t for my wife, I wouldn’t be standing here retiring today. I would have probably gotten out after my first enlistment,” said Ruiz. “She has been an instrumental part in my deployments, ups and downs over the years —

she has always been there and I thank her for that.”

The roads covered over the past 20 plus years haven’t always been easy for Ruiz, but he says he became a lot wiser along the way.

“I had a lot of experiences along the way. I learned a lot from a lot of good people, both staff noncommissioned officers and officers alike,” said Ruiz. “They taught me things I may not have learned in the civilian world, things that have helped me become a success in the Marine Corps and will undoubtedly enable me to be successful in the civilian sector.”

“I can’t say enough about Master Sgt. Ruiz,” said Burch during the ceremony. “He was always willing to lend a hand, he was a great asset to the Marine Corps, and will easily prove his worth in the civilian world.”

Ruiz and his wife plan to complete their retirement in Las Vegas where Ruiz plans to fill the position of a security manager and spend a little more time with his family. However, before Ruiz left the war memorial, he did offer a few pearls of wisdom to his fellow Marines and Sailors.

“Strive for success in whatever you do, whatever [military occupational specialty] you have or billet you hold, do your best. You will only achieve success by hard work, dedication and ensuring that you learn from past failures. Strive for success not only in the Marine Corps, but in the civilian world as well.”



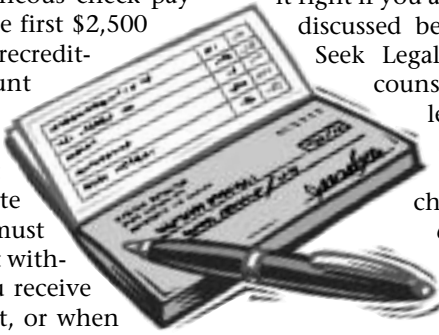
Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Master Sgt. Joe Ruiz, SNCOIC repairable issue point with CSSG-3, stands front and center of two company formations during his retirement ceremony Oct. 22 at the Pacific War Memorial.

## CHECKS, From A-2

you write checks. Failure to do so can result in overdraft charges, and under the Uniform Code of Military Justice may result in disciplinary action. Check 21 does not affect how quickly you receive funds from deposited checks (this is governed by the Expedited Funds Availability Act, 12 U.S.C. § 4001).

5. *What are my rights to dispute erroneous check payments?* Check 21 gives you a right to an immediate “recredit” of erroneous check payments. An amount, up to the first \$2,500 of a check amount, must be recredited to your checking account within 10 business days of your request. Before you receive the recredit, you must have first received a substitute check of your original. You must submit your claim for recredit within 40 calendar days after you receive the bank’s periodic statement, or when you receive the substitute check, whichever is later. You may request an extension of this 40 days. Your bank may set guidelines for requesting the recredit — for example, the bank may require your request to be in writing. Under Check 21, when you dispute checks in excess of \$2,500, you will be recredited the first \$2,500 of the disputed amount if the bank has not completed its investigation by the end of the ten business days. If the bank’s investigation confirms the check payment was erroneous, any funds in excess of \$2,500 may be repaid to you at a later time, but in no case later



than 45 calendar days after your claim for recredit. You may also have the right to sue for certain damages under Check 21 in federal or state court within one year of learning of the facts that caused you harm under Check 21. If the bank can show the check was properly charged to your account, you may not receive the 10-day recredit right, and likewise, the recredit may be reversed if, after the 10 days, the bank determines it wrongly recredited your account. You also may have waived this recredit right if you agreed to check truncation, as discussed below. What you should do:

Seek Legal Assistance or other legal counsel to further discuss your legal remedies under Check 21 or under other laws regarding wrongly paid checks.

6. *Can I still get my original checks?* You may be able to get your original checks, but they will probably not be in the hands of your local bank. Check 21 does not require destruction of original paper checks. However, it will be more difficult to access the originals should you want to examine them for forgery. Likewise, the bank holding your original check will have its own rules about maintaining original checks, so your original check may have already been destroyed when you seek access to the originals. Under Check 21, you have the right to a free paper substitute check upon request, and may receive substitute checks with your monthly statement.

**Balance your checkbook and pay special attention to:**

1. *Check 21 creates a potential risk of double-posting.* Because both the original check and the substitute check could enter the processing stream, both the original and substitute checks could be deducted from your account. Banks are supposed to warrant that a check is not being paid twice. What you should do: if you notice that a check has been deducted twice from your account, immediately request the substitute check from your bank, and request a recredit of the erroneous amount.

2. *Check 21 creates a potential risk that the “amount” of the check can be distorted or changed during scanning.* The transfer of format between hard copy and electronic copy is not flawless, and potentially the check can look different or distorted after scanning. The “amount” portion of your check could read an incorrect amount on the substitute check, causing an incorrect deduction from your checking account. What you should do: if you notice that a check has been deducted for an incorrect amount from your checking account, immediately request the substitute check from your bank, and request a recredit of the erroneous amount.

3. *Check 21 limits applicability of some methods for proving forgery or alteration.* The scanning of your original check into an electronic substitute check eliminates pen pressure, ink, fingerprints, and other similar evidence of forgery and alteration. The original check usually will no longer be held by your bank and will no longer be returned to you. What you should do: if you suspect a check forgery or alteration,

immediately request the substitute check from your bank, and request a recredit of the erroneous amount. Read the JAL Advisory 15: Forged Checks Scheme, and seek Legal Assistance or other legal counsel immediately.

**Deployed Marines**

Deployed Marines and other service members located outside the continental United States may have difficulty pursuing their rights as described above. In cases of deployment and to prepare for future deployments or unexpected absences, Marines should visit their local Legal Assistance Office and determine, with the help of a Legal Assistance Attorney, if Powers of Attorney may be appropriate to resolve the erroneous check payment problems. Special Powers of Attorney may specifically delegate (for example only) powers to receive and discuss account statements, and dispute charges on specific checking accounts.

For help understanding how Check 21 affects you and to learn how to protect yourself against erroneous charges during deployments, visit your local Legal Assistance Office. Legal Assistance Attorneys are trained in consumer protection law and will provide advice on protective measures that, if taken, may limit financial loss. For help with personal finances and managing checking accounts, you may also visit your base Financial Management Office for further assistance. A more complete description of Check 21 is available at [www.consumersunion.org/finance/ckclear1002.htm](http://www.consumersunion.org/finance/ckclear1002.htm).



# Ceremony detail gives back to fallen brothers

Story and Photos by  
**Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards**

*Press Chief*

From the moment Marines step foot on the yellow footprints at their respective recruit depots, they are bombarded with the stories of the traditions and history of the Marine Corps. One of these traditions is providing a military funeral detail to mark the passing of fallen Marines.

“The burial of our dead is a sacred trust shared by all Marines,” said Gunnery Sgt. Rodney Daniels, MCAF ceremonial detail staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “It is a very sacred and time honored tradition, which gives us an opportunity to honor a fallen brother or sister and comrade. It also affords us the opportunity to let the next of kin know their faithful and honorable service to country and Corps were greatly appreciated.”

The ceremonial detail, unlike a lot of other details, has no problem filling its vacancies when a Marine changes duty stations.

“The majority of our detail isn’t tasked to be a part of it,” said Daniels. “They volunteer. They just want the opportunity to give something back to those who have given their full measure,” said Daniels.

Being a member of the ceremonial detail is no easy task. As with any parade or performance put on by Marines, it is expected to be the best it can be.

“We practice the month prior to assignment as the burial detail,” said

Daniels. “We conduct uniform inspections and we also practice for 45 minutes to an hour, three times a week during the month we are assigned burial detail, depending on the number of funerals.”

Daniels said the time spent preparing for a detail is well worth it in the end.

“The family members become extremely emotional and grateful for the Marine Corps presence,” said Daniels. “They normally thank us for a great performance. It’s kind of ironic because our performance is our way of saying thank you to them and the deceased for honorable service and for also letting us be a part of the memorial service.”

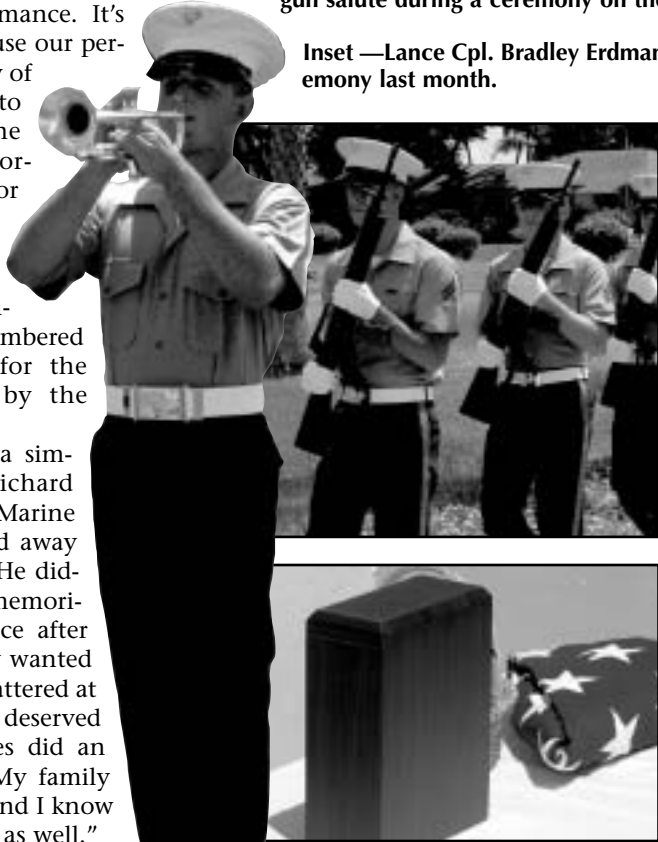
The family members of those remembered are very grateful for the services rendered by the ceremonial details.

“My father was a simple man,” said Richard McCoy, the son a Marine who recently passed away at the age of 83. “He didn’t want to have a memorial or military service after he died. He simply wanted to have his ashes scattered at sea, but I knew he deserved more. The Marines did an outstanding job. My family and I appreciate it and I know my father would’ve as well.”



Above — Cpl. Efren Casas (right) and the other members of the Marine Corps Air Facility ceremonial detail render a 21-gun salute during a ceremony on the USS Utah memorial last month.

Inset — Lance Cpl. Bradley Erdman, a trumpeter with the Marine Forces Pacific Band, plays taps during a burial ceremony last month.



Left — Marines with the Marine Corps Air Facility ceremonial detail unfurl the U.S. flag during a burial ceremony aboard the USS Utah memorial last month.

Above left —The Marine Corps Air Facility ceremonial detail begins its ceremonial march into position during a burial ceremony last month.

Below left — The remains of the service member are treated with the utmost respect in memory of their years of honorable and faithful service.



FOOD, From A-1

the basics every day, whether having an inspection or not. If you do something right on an every day occasion, there is no reason to have anything to worry about.”

One of the burdens on the service members who work in the chow hall is the fact so many are deployed at this time, said Sekeres.

“We used to have 130 Marines to help out in the mess hall,” said Sekeres. “We now have 39 Marines, but they are still all getting the same job done in the same amount of time. It’s harder on them, but we pull together a lot more.”

Another problem facing the cooks is the equipment available for them to use.

“This facility itself is over 53 years old. It is competing with dining facilities that have just been constructed,” said Chief Warrant Officer Richard Martinez, food service officer for Anderson Hall. “The Marines in this building can easily compete with the

best out there, though. They are the best that I’ve seen and I believe it’s partially because they are forced to constantly sharpen their skills when ... providing support in the field and then returning to garrison.”

Some of the Marines at the Anderson Hall Dining Facility know what to expect from the inspection because they experienced the same thing while in Okinawa, said Master Gunnery Sgt. Raul A. Barrett, food technician, Headquarters Battalion.

“This is the second time for some of these Marines to go through this inspection this year,” said Barrett. “They know what to do, and they do it well. Since we have a little less to work with, we have to shine a little more. I don’t think the cooks will have a problem doing that at all.”

The results for the award will be announced in December. The IFSEA will hold an international conference in San Diego, Calif. in April where the winning dining hall commands will be awarded.



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Cpl. Stephanie Kinzel, food service specialist, prepares dessert for the Anderson Hall dining facility, which is competing for the Maj. Gen. William P.T. Hill Memorial Award.



Photos Courtesy of Mokapu Elementary

Above and right — Faculty, staff, students and volunteers came together Saturday at Mokapu Elementary here to lend a helping hand as part of Make A Difference Day. The staff and volunteers completed many tasks from turning over gardens to hanging coat and bookbag racks to add to the overall orderliness of the school.



Following a rigorous Headquarters Battalion physical training session, the Marines collected their energy to clean up all the trash adrift on Pyramid Rock Beach, along C street and by the front gate. The base clean up, named MCB Hawaii Pride Day, lasted most of the day. The collected trash was taken to the base recycling center and landfill.



DIFFERENCE, From A-1

plished a number of tasks, which not only improved the appearance of the school, but also aided in the safety of the children who attended.

“We completed a great number of projects,” said Ariana Le, a Make A Difference Day coordinator. “We hung fans in classrooms, turned over gardens, planted grass, painted the curbs in front of the school, and purchased things for classrooms, hung new coat and backpack racks. Some parents even built and painted benches for the school.”

The school has been participating in this event for many years.

“This was Mokapu’s seventh annual Make A Difference Day,” said Lyons. “It was amazing the work we got done. Just the turnout from parents was amazing. Most schools you get things going on with volunteers and you see a lot of mothers, but we had a lot of fathers here that were ready to work and are ready to work again. A lot them said ‘Let me know when you’ve got something else going on and I’ll be here.’”

Make A Difference Day benefited all that took part. It gave the volunteers a sense of ownership in the projects they did and benefited the students as well.

“The projects completed with the overall safety of the children,” said Mokapu Principal Larry Biggs. “The fans hung in classrooms will aide in keeping them [the students] cool on those warm days. The volunteers painted the safety zones on the curbs in front of the school where the buses park to ensure the children don’t get to close to the street. I have a number of students who suffer from asthma and the planting of the grass will eventually help in keeping the dust level down.

“These volunteers were great, they didn’t have to be supervised and they got the projects done,” said Biggs.

Created by USA WEEKEND magazine 13 years ago, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of October.

In 2003, 3 million people volunteered on Make A Difference Day accomplishing thousands of projects across America.

PRIDE, From A-1

it’s a Marine Corps standard. It’s always a good day in the Corps when we come together to make our community a better place to live and work for everyone.”

Once each command finished inspecting and cleaning their area of responsibility, they transported all of the trash that they had collected to the base recycling facility, where the collections were separated into trash and recyclables. Anything that could not be recycled was then taken to the base landfill.

“When we said pick up everything, we meant pick up everything,” said Comer. “And these guys did a pretty good job. It has really made a difference to the cleanliness and appearance of the base.

LIST, From A-2

- an empty parking lot.
- 31.** A Marine with a bad attitude that has been busted down in rank will be the first Leatherneck to defend the Corps during a confrontational situation with an outsider.
- 32.** Marines love sports cars, SUVs and trucks that they normally can’t afford.
- 33.** I never witnessed a female dipping tobacco (chew) until I came in the Marine Corps and saw it for myself.
- 34.** Anything that is new, Marines will destroy.
- 35.** Marines can sleep anytime and anywhere ... to include standing up.
- 36.** When Marines are motivated they attempt to call cadence out loud, imitate a drill instructor, or grunt repeatedly.
- 37.** Marines cannot hold a conversation without using an acronym.
- 38.** I believe young Marines think the magazine Maxim is considered professional reading.
- 39.** I once counseled a young Marine for going out in town in his cammies to pay an electric bill. I asked the Marine, “Didn’t you know that the only exception for wearing utilities out in town is an emergency stop?” The Marine then tells me, “It was an emergency master guns, they were going to turn off my lights.”
- 40.** If you want to punish a Marine, take away their stereo, Playstation or TV.
- 41.** If you want to know what is really going on, ask a lance corporal.
- 42.** Every Marine professes to be a great swimmer until they put cammies on jump in the pool at swim qual.
- 43.** The enlisted rumor control mill is a vicious thing. Lance Cpl. Smuckatelli could receive PCS orders to Okinawa at 1500. By 1800, the scuttlebutt in the barracks is that Smuckatelli has a permanent odor that he contracted in Okinawa.
- 44.** Murphy’s Law: the only way to reach a Marine nowadays is to call them on their cell phone.
- 45.** Young Marines truly believe that their drill instructors were the best.
- 46.** The smartest Marines are usually the laziest ones.
- 47.** A sea lawyer will spend fifteen minutes making excuses to get out of a ten-minute job.
- 48.** The majority of Marines never understood their enlistment contract. Most think they were supposed to be a different MOS.
- 49.** There are female Marines that actually try to wear make up while in the field.
- 50.** Some Marines believe that boxer shorts are worn in lieu of PT gear.